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→CONTRIBUTED NOTES.←

Textual Criticism of the Old Testament.—In a recent number of the *Independent*, attention was called to the need of immediate work upon the text of the Old Testament, and men of large means and consecrated heart were strongly urged to contribute to the end that young men might be sent abroad to pursue the necessary studies and conduct the necessary researches and examinations of material at the command of scholars. This is indeed a most timely call. Long enough have Germany and England and Holland been left to do the original work in the Old Testament department, while America has been content to reproduce and popularize the results of their industry. It is time that American scholars should place themselves by the side of these pioneers and make the accomplishments of the same the stepping-stones to something valuable of their own production, rather than the mere basis for reproduction in another dress. In this matter of the determination of a correct text of the Old Testament, these facts are especially true, for there can be no broad and final discussion of questions of higher criticism, until the text which is the basis for such discussion is fixed with a reasonable degree of certainty. Of course it is easy to say that the Hebrew MSS. are not accessible to us in America, but the texts of Baer and Delitzsch, with the criticisms of the same, give us a good presentation of the MS. evidence; and there are other sorts of evidence of far more value for Old Testament criticism than any MS. variations afford. The versions are to be studied for their testimony, and, after the recent issues of works like those of Berliner and de Lagarde, we seem to be in a fair way toward a solution of the question of this testimony. The quotations in ancient writings are to be sifted and used. Especially in Old Testament criticism, must judicious and reverent conjecture find a large place; and while, e. g., in determining the text of the New Testament, German scholars were most active and successful in the collection of material, the sober and broad judgment needed to weigh all the evidence and thus to decide the text was furnished by English scholars. In Old Testament criticism, we should certainly keep pace with our English brethren. There is no subject in the whole field of theological study which needs more and is likely to yield better results to the ripest American scholarship, as there is surely no country on the globe in which sound judgment and scholarly independence are more happily combined.

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Old Testament Theology.—There is at present, if we are not mistaken, no complete work on Old Testament Theology by an English author. This shows how foreign the method of Biblical Theology has been to English Bible students. Protestant Theology, even though assuming to be based wholly upon the teachings of Scripture, has been treated more from a philosophical view-point than that of a simple presentation of biblical truth. Students have been taught to skillfully maintain the reasonableness of the body of divinity, rather than to un-